

Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

The Parks and Recreation Board of the City of Mesa met in a regular session at the Parks and Recreation office at 200 S. Center Street, Building 1, Mesa, on September 9, 2009.

Members Present:

Frank Alger
Don Goodrum
Connie Gullatt-Whiteman
Steve Ikeda
David Martinez
Matt Shaffer
Michelle Udall
Ron Wills
Marilyn Wilson
Mark Yarbrough

Staff Present:

Dawn Bies
J.D. Dockstader
Dale Furnas
Michael Holste
Andrea Moore
Bryan Raines

Members Absent:

Milt Fort, unexcused

David Martinez, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Martinez asked if there was a motion for approval of the minutes from the July 8, 2009 Parks Board meeting. Matt Shaffer asked to have minutes amended to add the words "per workload" after FTE's to a question he asked on Page 4, paragraph 2. Marilyn Wilson made a motion to approve, Connie Gullatt-Whiteman seconded, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Martinez then asked for a motion from the Dogs in Parks Subcommittee members for approval of the minutes from the August 13, 2009 meeting. Mr. Alger made a motion, Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

Public Comments

None.

Hear proposal and make recommendation on communication towers in city parks/facilities

Dale Furnas, Management Assistant II, introduced T.C. Blatter and Rulon Anderson from Clearwire to provide the Board with information about their proposal to place wireless communication towers at Dobson Ranch Golf Course, Countryside Park and Skyline Park. Mr. Anderson told the Board that Clearwire is working with municipalities, school districts and local businesses placing these communication towers in order to provide wireless internet access for Arizona residents. He added that there are 61 towers planned to establish service in Mesa. Clearwire is proposing a monopalm pole at Dobson Ranch Golf Course, a monopine pole at Countryside Park and a light pole co-location at Skyline Park.

Steve Ikeda asked about the range of the antennas on the towers. Mr. Anderson replied that it was approximately ½ mile from the tower.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman asked if Clearwire had received any complaints from citizens regarding the look/placement of the current towers. Mr. Anderson said he had not heard of any complaints being registered. She asked about walls or greenery being added to conceal the equipment. Mr. Anderson stated that walls have been placed where requested by Parks staff to be as inconspicuous as possible. She also pointed out that the location map on the Skyline drawings was incorrect and was showing the location for Countryside Park. Mr. Anderson said that had been brought to their attention and it had been corrected.

Mr. Yarbrough asked why more of the 61 communication towers were not being located in parks/basins. Mr. Anderson replied that they are requested for all possible sites given Clearwire's needs and the City's guidelines.

Don Goodrum asked about the variation in revenue received from these towers. Mr. Anderson answered it was because of the size of the compound and that the City/schools set the rates. Mr. Martinez asked Ms. Furnas if the Board needed to look at the prices being charged to ensure it was comparable to prices being charged by other governmental agencies or schools. Ms. Furnas asked Andrea Moore to clarify. Ms. Moore clarified that the City has a 4-tier pricing structure in place, with parks being in a higher tier based on park land being viewed as more valuable since it is used by the public for recreation purposes. She stated that these prices have been used based on the direction received from the Board in the past but that the Board can make a different recommendation if they feel it is necessary.

Matt Shaffer asked what happens when technology changes. He asked if 61 sites would no longer be necessary when that occurs. Mr. Anderson replied that the technology changes are too slow to cause that to happen. He added that if carriers combine their operations however, it could mean that some towers are removed.

Mr. Martinez asked for a motion to approve the recommendation for a communication tower at Dobson Ranch Golf Course. Mark Yarbrough made a motion, Mr. Alger seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the recommendation.

Mr. Martinez asked for a motion to approve the recommendation for a communication tower at Countryside Park. Frank Alger made a motion, Mr. Goodrum seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the recommendation.

Mr. Martinez asked for a motion to approve the recommendation for a communication tower at Skyline Park. Mr. Alger made a motion, Mr. Shaffer seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the recommendation with corrections made to the Skyline Park map.

Appoint Chair for Dogs in Park subcommittee

Mr. Martinez asked for nominations for Chair of the Dogs in Park subcommittee. Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman nominated Mr. Alger for Chair, Mr. Martinez seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the nomination.

Hear an update from Dogs in Park subcommittee

Mr. Alger gave the Board a brief update from the Dogs in Park subcommittee. He told the Board the committee had met in August to finalize the questions and format to be used in order to generate citizen input regarding dogs in Mesa parks. He said that the subcommittee had worked to ensure the right type of information would be gathered with an on-line survey tool. He

told the Board that the survey was now live on Mesa's website and links to the survey were put on various city websites, as well as Facebook and Twitter for citizens to access.

Ms. Furnas showed the Board an on-line test sample of the survey that citizens would be accessing. She told the Board that all staff would utilize all marketing resources available to get this information out to residents. She added that the survey would be available to residents through November with results being compiled in December and presented to the Board at the January 2010 meeting.

Hear information regarding status of the Parks Master Plan

Ms. Moore gave the Board an update on the Parks Master Plan which included some history on the Mesa 2025 Master Plan. She told the Board the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was approved by Council in 2002 and since that time the City had only accomplished a few of the land acquisitions and not much else towards the goals in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. She said that in November 2007 staff started talking with the Board about evaluating the Master Plan. Subcommittees were formed to evaluate where we were and whether we were still on track with what was in the Master Plan. Staff has since learned that in 2011 the City will start the process of updating the City's General Plan. Based on this new information, the Board's recommended changes instead became the priorities for the Parks Master Plan. She shared a list of proposed capital projects reflecting the Board's priorities.

Chair Comments

- Accepting citizen input – Mr. Martinez asked the Board about creating a listserv for citizens who want to be kept informed about various issues that could be brought before the Parks and Recreation Board for their consideration.

Michelle Udall said she thinks it has been a big issue with not having the TimeOut brochure any longer and that a lot of people didn't register because they didn't figure out how to or it may have been too complicated to them.

Mr. Alger added that gathering emails or putting out a newsletter or something on a semi-regular basis would be valuable to citizens.

The Board discussed various ways to receive feedback. The Board discussed creating a blog but it would need to be monitored.

Ms. Udall said she prefers citizens being able to submit comments and suggested adding a link to the Parks Board web page for citizens to use to be added to a listserv for periodic information being sent to citizens from the Board.

Mr. Alger suggested adding an open ended comments box to the Parks Board web page for citizen comments.

It was suggested that a sign-up sheet for a listserv be available at all public events. Mr. Martinez asked for this item to be placed on the agenda for further discussion at the November 18th meeting.

Ms. Udall suggested adding public events calendar to the information that is sent out via listserv.

- On-line survey demo – this was shown to the Board as part of Dogs in Park subcommittee update with Agenda Item #5.

Director's Comments

Information shared as follows:

- Day of Play event – Mike Holste told the Board about this national event and the free events Mesa will hold at various Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities (PRCF) locations on September 25th. Free activities include open gym and youth activities at Jefferson and Webster Gymnasiums, the climbing wall and open gym at Red Mountain Multigenerational Center, and free family movie night at the Mesa Amphitheatre. Click [here](#) for [Mesa Day of Play event](#) information.
- Rhodes Pool update – Mr. Holste gave the Board a recap of the Rhodes Pool grand opening event. He said the event was well attended and mentioned that five Board members were in attendance. He said the Flow Rider was a big hit with all.
- PRCF Director recruitment – Bryan Raines told the Board the recruitment for the PRCF Department Director position was open and the first review of applications would be on October 5th. He said Human Resources had received a lot of applications for the position so far, and the city is hopeful it will have a good pool of candidates.
- Discussion of PRCF performance measure – Mr. Holste and Ms. Furnas gave the Board a brief overview about the PRCF performance measures that are presented to City management quarterly. Each area of the department completes and updates these measures regularly.

Mr. Raines added that this helps City management see where we are missing our targets, and is used as a tool to help us improve. He stated that this would be a regular Parks Board agenda item in the future.

Reports on meetings and/or events attended by Board Members

Mr. Alger attended the Dogs in Parks subcommittee meeting in August.

Mr. Ikeda attended the Rhodes Pool grand opening and a City Council meeting.

Ms. Wilson attended the Rhodes Pool grand opening and the Arizona Parks and Recreation (APRA) Boards and Commissions Day at their annual conference. She attended two sessions during the conference; one of particular interest to her was “The 3 PM Crime Rate” which included information about the importance of offering programs to keep kids them busy during the hours of 2 – 8 p.m. when most juvenile crimes occur. She added that J.C. Penney offered grants, and also the [afterschool.gov](#) site had useful information on funding options for recreation programs.

Mr. Yarbrough attended the Rhodes Pool grand opening and stated that he loves the variety of amenities offered at Mesa’s aquatic facilities. He was also approached by a citizen concerned about the elimination of some of the afterschool programs and suggested having the schools organize the program with assistance from the City.

Ron Wills attended the Mesa City Championships at Kino Pool.

Ms. Udall attended various swim meets and the Rhodes Pool grand opening. She said she tried the Flow Rider and it was a lot of fun.

Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman attended the Dogs in Parks subcommittee August meeting. She told the Board she would be attending a book signing at Falcon's Roost on Friday, September 11th at 6:00 p.m. for *Images of America Falcon Field* by Daryl Mallett, the book for which she wrote the introduction.

Mr. Shaffer visited Countryside and Quail Run parks and Taylor Pool where he enjoys talking to residents and discussing Parks and Recreation facilities and programs.

Mr. Goodrum utilized various park facilities (Red Mountain, Ellsworth, and Escobedo) and added that the parks are generally in good shape.

Mr. Martinez reminded the Board that the November meeting had been moved to November 18th due to the Veterans Day holiday.

Mr. Martinez asked if there were any other items for discussion; the Board had no additional comments. Mr. Alger made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Ikeda seconded, and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Raines
Deputy City Manager